

Landmarks Preservation Commission. In this capacity, Ms. Fife helped manage and implement one of the Dinkins' administration's signature achievements: she oversaw and helped manage the New York Public Library system's move to extend access to its facilities by keeping libraries open six days a week—for the first time since 1947. She held a seat on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and chaired its Real Estate Committee and served as a member of the New York City Water Board and as Vice Chair of the Hudson River Park Conservancy. She also represented Mayor Dinkins on the Boards of the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Barbara Fife previously served as the Senior Special Assistant and acting Chief of Staff to then-Manhattan Borough President Dinkins. From 1982 to 1984, she directed the Internship Programs in the Department of Urban Planning at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She was a Democratic National Committeewoman from 1980 to 1990 and was elected and re-elected to the New York State Democratic Committee ten times.

Ms. Fife has served on the boards of many non-profit organizations, including the Museum of the City of New York, the Public Art Fund, Regional Plan Association, Project FIND, the Community Service Society, the Settlement Housing Fund, the New York League of Conservation Voters, and the Manhattan Theatre Club. She is a former President of the Parks Council and a former Vice President of the Clinton Housing Association. She graduated cum laude from Bryn Mawr College and holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College.

Throughout her distinguished career, Barbara Fife has remained devoted to her family. She and her beloved late husband Martin raised four sons, Stephen, Richard, Howard, and Andrew, and she is devoted to their beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in saluting the extraordinary contributions of the Honorable Barbara Fife to the political and civic life of our nation's greatest city.

PRESIDENT RICK BENDER AND
SECRETARY-TREASURER ALAN
LINK RETIRING FROM THE
WASHINGTON STATE LABOR
COUNCIL (WSLC)

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the powerful contributions made by Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) President Rick S. Bender and Secretary-Treasurer Alan O. Link to policies that benefit working families. Throughout their lengthy and distinguished service, they have done much to advance the cause of organized labor in Washington State and, thereby, to improve significantly the lives of our residents. Thanks to steadfast support of its labor movement by Rick Bender and Al Link, Washington State today is the fourth most unionized state in the nation, with the state's 574,000 union members accounting for 20.2% of its overall workforce.

Rick Bender became President of the Washington State Labor Council in 1993, after serving as WSLC Vice President (1988–1993); Executive Secretary of the King County Labor Council (1991–1993); and Executive Secretary of the Seattle Building and Construction Trades Council (1987–1991). He is a member of Laborers Local 242 and Elevator Constructors Local 19, and he began his career with organized labor as an apprentice with Cement Masons Local 528 in 1966. In addition to his exceptional service to organized labor, Rick also served the citizens of the State of Washington for many years as an elected member of the State Legislature; I was fortunate to serve with Rick in the Washington State Senate, where he was much respected for his expertise, his hard work, and his commitment to fairness.

Al Link also is a giant in the Washington State labor community. He served in numerous leadership positions in that community prior to his 1994 election as WSLC Secretary-Treasurer, including President of the Spokane County Central Labor Council (1989–94) and President of Steelworkers Local 329 (1991–94), when he represented workers at the Kaiser Aluminum plant in Spokane. Al has been a member of the United Steelworkers of America since 1961.

Together, Rick Bender and Al Link provided bold leadership to the Washington State Labor Council as it achieved many proud accomplishments: they crafted a far-sighted and effective legislative platform to promote pro-working family laws and policies in Washington state government; these included passage of long-sought collective bargaining rights for state employees, protection and strengthening of Washington's model unemployment insurance and workers' compensation systems, promotion of innovative apprenticeship programs, and development of affordable health care and family leave policies.

Intent on highlighting labor's importance to our democratic political process, Mr. Bender and Mr. Link created a groundbreaking grassroots political program featuring the "Labor Neighbor" program, a highly successful effort that became a national model for engaging union activists and volunteers in the election process and informing rank-and-file members of labor's endorsements.

They also led successful campaigns for pro-worker ballot measures, including the nation's first indexed minimum wage law, which began as an initiative filed by Rick Bender; it was approved by the voters of Washington State in 1998 following an exciting campaign co-chaired by Rick and especially memorable because it relied entirely on volunteer signature gatherers.

Mr. Speaker, the formidable team of Rick Bender and Al Link leaves a vital legacy that will strengthen the lives of working people and their families for decades to come. On the occasion of their retirement from the Washington State Labor Council, I join thousands of union members, working families, and appreciative citizens across Washington State in thanking them for their vision, their bold leadership, and their dedicated service. We wish them good fortune and much satisfaction in the coming years.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARUCH COLLEGE AND ITS 2010 BERNARD BARUCH DINNER HONOREES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Baruch College of the City University of New York. Last year the College honored several remarkable leaders on the occasion of the 21st Annual Bernard Baruch Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street in Manhattan.

A senior college in the City University of New York (CUNY), Baruch College is ranked among the top 15% of U.S. colleges and was named one of the 50 public colleges offering the "best value" to students. Currently led by Interim President Stan Altman, Baruch College honored five distinguished women in 2010, for the first time ever. Each is a prominent leader in New York City's real estate industry, chosen by Baruch College's trustees for their remarkable achievements in professional life and their extraordinary devotion to serving their communities. In addition, the Bernard Baruch Dinner last year honored the women of the College's Class of 1940, who were the first female students admitted after a 1933 ban on women students was ended in 1936, and who served as pioneering trailblazers for the generations of women who followed in their footsteps at Baruch. Appropriately, the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Donna Shalala, a former President of Hunter College at CUNY, served as a dinner presenter.

The five women who were recognized at the 2010 Bernard Baruch Dinner are truly deserving honorees. The Bernard Baruch Medal for Business and Civic Leadership was presented to four outstanding leaders, Suzanne Sunshine, Louise M. Sunshine, Sylvia J. Smith, and Doris W. Koo, and the Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Dolly Lenz.

Suzanne Sunshine is the President of S. Sunshine & Associates, which provides commercial and residential real estate brokerage and consulting services to non-profit organizations and their personnel, donating a percentage of its fees back to each non-profit client.

Louise M. Sunshine has enjoyed extraordinary success in the worlds of business, politics and government. After serving as a trusted top advisor to New York State Assembly Majority Leader Al Blumenthal and New York Governor Hugh Carey, in 1986, she launched the Sunshine Group firm focusing on residential real estate, where she coined the phrase, "All Square Feet Are Not Created Equal." Today, she serves as a consultant to Alexico Group, LLC, and is playing a leading role at Domineum, a firm offering global real estate solutions.

Sylvia Smith, FAIA, LEED AP, is a Senior Partner at FXFOWLE Architects, a leading firm that also provides planning and interior design services. She is the founder of the firm's Cultural & Educational Studio and is currently leading the redesign of public spaces at Lincoln Center, the Juilliard School expansion, and the Alice Tully Hall renovation, and recently completed award-winning Bronx Zoo projects.

Doris W. Koo is a nationally respected leader with nearly three decades' experience in affordable housing and community development.